

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 016566

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 016566

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IC, US

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS: TIMING OF NEXT MEETING

REFERENCE: REYKJAVIK 150

1. WHEN FONMIN AGUSTSSON RAISES QUESTION OF NEXT NEGOTIATING SESSION, YOU WILL WANT TO BEAR IN MIND THAT SOME 10-12 FOREIGN MINISTERS FROM WESTERN EUROPE, CANADA AND JAPAN ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND ENERGY CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 11. THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY THAT CONFERENCE MAY CONTINUE ON FEBRUARY 12 BECAUSE OF NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, THEREFORE, WE WOULD BE READY TO AGREE IF GOI SEEKS POSTPONEMENT TO A LATER DATE SINCE WASHINGTON CALENDAR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11 IS OVERLY CROWDED.

2. WEEK OF FEBRUARY 18 MAY NOT SUIT, HOWEVER, BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND NOW PLANS TO VISIT ICELAND FEBRUARY 17-20. IF AGUSTSSON CAME TO WASHINGTON, AS WE WOULD EXPECT, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE SECRETARY WOULD BE OUT OF TOWN LATTER PART OF THAT WEEK.
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PAGE 02 STATE 016566

3. PERHAPS NEXT ROUND COULD STILL BE SQUEEZED IN FEBRUARY 13-15 (WHICH IS IN ACCORD WITH OUR PROPOSAL IN STATE 002626 EXDIS) ESPECIALLY IF IT APPEARS IMPORTANT FOR US TO ASSURE GOI THAT WE ARE NOT STALLING.

4. CONSIDERATIONS IN PARAS 1 AND 2 ARE OF MORE CONCERN TO
AGUSTSSON THAN TO US. WE ARE WILLING TO MEET WHENEVER HE

WANTS AND, UNLESS HE ATTACHES CONDITIONS TO SETTING NEW
TIME, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT WHATEVER DATES HE
PROPOSES. KISSINGER

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